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Wednesday, Jan 30, 2008

Breaking News

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State Park increase spending on Kentucky farm goods

HERALD-LEADER STAFF REPORT

Despite some harsh weather conditions last year, the state Department of Parks increased spending on Kentucky-raised farm products by 9 percent in 2007, spending \$162,793, officials announced Wednesday.

Kentucky state park resorts and state-run Frankfort cafeterias have been purchasing food products from local farmers since 2004 as part of an effort called Kentucky Proud. Kentucky Proud is intended to help state farmers find markets for their products, the department said.

In a news release, Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said the increased spending was good news, especially since state fruit and vegetable crops were damaged by a freeze last April and last summer's drought.

Foods used by state parks includes fruits, vegetables, beef, country ham and fish.

"Many of our parks are asked by guests where some of the food comes from, and we're glad to tell them it was grown or raised locally," said Commerce Secretary Marcheta Sparrow.

For more information about the Kentucky Proud program, visit .

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